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very faithfully yours,  
Charles Aldrich.

13. Notes on the Birds of Fort Klamath, Oregon. With Remarks on certain species by William Brewster. *Auk*, Vol. V, April, July and Oct. 1888, pp. 139-146, 251-262, 357-366.
  14. A Silver Tip Family [of Grizzly Bears]. The Book of the Boone and Crocket Club, New York, 1897, p. 225.
  15. Notes on the Birds of Fort Sherman, Idaho. *Auk*, Vol. XIV, Oct. 1897, pp. 347-357; Vol. XV, Jan. 1898, pp. 14-22.
  16. In Memoriam: Charles Emil Bendire. *Auk*, Vol. XV, Jan. 1898, pp. 1-6.
  17. Spotted Sandpiper removing its Young. *Auk*, Vol. XV, Jan. 1898, p. 52.
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## IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES ALDRICH.

BORN OCTOBER 2, 1828.—DIED MARCH 8, 1908.

BY RUTHVEN DEANE.

*With Portrait (Plate VIII).*

OF THE twenty-five Founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, we have lost nine by death, the last of whom, and the subject of this sketch, being the Hon. Charles Aldrich<sup>1</sup> of Boone, Iowa.

Mr. Aldrich was born October 2, 1828, in the town of Ellington, Chautauqua County, N. Y., and died March 8, 1908, and was therefore at the time of his death in his eightieth year. Although active in his daily occupations, he had been in delicate health for some years, when an attack of grip compelled him to give up his duties. While he rallied from time to time, and entertained hopes of soon returning to his work, complications set in and after an illness of seven weeks he passed away.

Mr. Aldrich was married at Knowlesville, N. Y., to Miss Matilda Olivia Williams on July 20, 1851. She was in full sympathy with all her husband's pursuits and was a member of the American Society

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<sup>1</sup> I am greatly indebted for some of the facts and data contained in this sketch to the late Miss Mary R. Whitcomb of Des Moines, Iowa, who as assistant Curator of the Historical Department, was closely associated with Mr. Aldrich for twelve years.

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and a lover of birds. She died at Boone, Iowa, September 18, 1892. Mr. Aldrich was married a second time, November 12, 1898, to Miss Thirza Louisa Briggs of Webster City, Iowa, a life long friend of his first wife. Mr. Aldrich is survived by the widow, a brother, Hiram Aldrich of Cedar Rapids, Ia., and two sisters, Mrs. Mary Kettell of Cambria, Wyoming, and Mrs. Jane Lee of Olean, N. Y.

Young Aldrich received his early education in the common schools, and at the age of sixteen entered the Jamestown Academy for one year, but his practical education began in June, 1846, when he entered the printing office of the 'Western Literary Messenger' in Buffalo, N. Y. Here he served an apprenticeship in the printer's art, as also in the villages of Attica and Warsaw, N. Y., and Warren, Penn. In June, 1850, he established the 'Cattaraugus Sachem,' a weekly newspaper, at Randolph, N. Y., which he conducted for one year. During the following five years he conducted the 'Olean Journal,' and then returned to the home farm in Little Valley, remaining there until his removal west in 1857.

Settling at Webster City, Iowa, at that time with about 200 inhabitants, and only 1500 in the County, he started under most primitive circumstances the 'Hamilton Freeman,' and as success favored his push and energy, he later was connected in the publication and editing of the 'Dubuque Times,' and 'Marshall County Times,' and was a frequent correspondent of the 'Chicago Inter-Ocean' and many other papers.

In addition to Mr. Aldrich's marked literary ability, he bore a prominent part in promoting the political and historical welfare of his favorite State. He had four times been chief clerk of the House of Representatives, from 1860 to 1870, and served the State in five of its legislatures, and in 1869 Iowa College conferred upon him the degree of A. M. He was a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa, the American Historical Association, Loyal Legion, Grand Army of the Republic, Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, and many other organizations.

In 1862 he entered the Union Army, and was made Adjutant of the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, serving as such for eighteen months, when failing health caused him to tender his resignation and return to Iowa, receiving his honorable discharge January 28,

1864. In 1875 he was unofficially connected with the United States Geological Survey under Dr. F. V. Hayden, which was engaged that year in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. While in the field he wrote frequent letters to the 'Chicago Inter-Ocean' which were widely read and often copied.

For many years Mr. Aldrich devoted his time, energy and money to the building up of the Historical Department of Iowa, and that this has become one of the monuments of the State is principally due to his untiring zeal and influence, and most of the valuable relics deposited there he has personally gathered and donated.

In early youth Mr. Aldrich acquired a taste for the collecting of autograph letters, portraits and other mementos of distinguished persons, and in this he was constantly assisted by his wife. The collection had grown to such magnitude that in 1884 he presented it to the State, on condition that it should be kept by itself in suitable cases in the State Library, where it has since been known as the 'Aldrich Collection,' and he was made curator and secretary of his treasures, constantly adding to them up to the time of his death.

This collection, comprising thousands of signed autograph letters, a large proportion being accompanied by portraits, represent our presidents, statesmen, officers of the Army and Navy, scientists, and men and women of title, literature and art from all over the world. Among the ornithologists represented is a letter of J. J. Audubon, dated New York, July 9, 1841, in which he speaks of "number 34" of his 'Birds of America,' which was then being published; and a letter of Alexander Wilson, dated Pittsburgh Penn., February 22, 1810, and addressed to Alexander Lawson, his engraver. Wilson describes his journey through Pennsylvania, is much gratified at his success in obtaining nineteen subscribers to his work in Pittsburgh, and writes that he has purchased a skiff which he has named the 'Ornithologist,' and of his intention to paddle down the Ohio River, over 500 miles, to Cincinnati.

Other letters are from Charles Lucian Bonaparte, Titian R. Peale, Ord, Baird, Kennicott, and Coues, besides such naturalists as Linnæus, Darwin, Owen, Wallace, Belt, Seeley, Waterton and many others. In addition to these relics the Historical Department comprises an extensive collection of books, pamphlets and files of early State newspapers. In the museum department is a collection

of birds, presented by the Smithsonian Institution, besides mammals, insects, and representatives of other branches of zoölogy.

The 'News-Republican' of Boone, Ia., says: "Curator Charles Aldrich was inspired to do this work by the knowledge that posterity would be greatly hampered and disappointed unless it were done. While the great mass of Iowans were content to deal with the present, taking no thought of the past or future, one man had the insight and the unselfish devotion to his race to inaugurate for them a place for a permanent record of their growth. Slowly and by unstinted energy Mr. Aldrich brought the State into a realizing sense of the need of the Historical Department, which now is rich in its fund of information and its precious relics of the past. None question now the need and value of Curator Aldrich's work. He has founded an institution which will live as long as literature and art, and for which generations yet unborn will rise and call him blessed."

In 1883 Mr. Aldrich travelled extensively in Europe, visiting England, Ireland, Germany, Italy and France, but he seems to have been particularly attracted with England, which country he visited twice later. While there he visited the great museums of London and South Kensington, as well as, in his own country, the New York American Museum of Natural History and the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. These were all graphically described in his writings. While Mr. Aldrich had been a devoted lover of birds and all nature from early boyhood, he was not in the proper sense of the word an active ornithologist. His thoughts were, nevertheless, always in touch with the subject and in a quiet way he was frequently writing articles for the press and was deeply interested in bird protection.

An Iowa paper states: "In the death of Mr. Aldrich the birds and dumb animals lose one of the best and strongest friends they ever had. His versatile pen was ever ready to take up their battles and he did as much as any man in Iowa to create proper sentiments for the care and treatment of all animals and birds." In the early volumes of the 'American Naturalist' are short notes from his pen and a few of his observations are recorded in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' and 'The Auk,' between 1878 and 1885. From 1897 to 1904 articles appeared over his signature in

the Des Moines, Boone, and other Iowa daily papers. Among these titles are, 'Bird Protection in England,' 'Wild Birds know their Friends,' 'The merciless war upon the Birds,' 'Hawks and Owls,' 'The Passenger Pigeon,' 'How Settlement affects the Birds, both upon wet and dry land,' and numerous other articles. Mr. Aldrich drafted and secured the passage of the Iowa law of 1870 which protects from wanton destruction the harmless and useful birds. Of this pioneer measure he was always very proud. It still remains in the code of Iowa, though slightly amended.

Mr. Aldrich was much interested in the Kendall Young Library of Webster City, Iowa, the town where he first settled. To this library he donated a fine collection of books, chiefly on subjects of natural history, and among them such standard works on ornithology as were published by Audubon, Wilson, Baird, Coues, Ridgway, Bendire, 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' and the works of several prominent English authors.

Dr. Elliott Coues was a warm and personal friend of Mr. Aldrich; their mutual love for birds and historical research, was naturally the strong tie that brought them together. They were both interested in the Expedition of Lewis and Clark. It was Mr. Aldrich who first aroused public interest and secured a provision from the legislature of the State for the erection of a monument near Sioux City, to mark the grave of Sergeant Floyd, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who died there August 20, 1804, and was the first American soldier buried in Iowa soil. He was much interested in Dr. Coues's reprint of Lewis and Clark, and rendered him assistance in its preparation, in recognition of which grateful acknowledgment was expressed in the preface. It was at the request of Dr. Coues that an invitation was sent to Mr. Aldrich, dated August 1, 1883, inviting him to attend a Convention in New York of American Ornithologists, for the purpose of founding an Ornithologists' Union.

A close friend to Mr. Aldrich writes in the 'Annals of Iowa': "One of the most conspicuous traits of Mr. Aldrich's many sided character was his intense love of old time friends, and those friends, who are legion, included birds and dumb creatures, no less than men. His successful advocacy of a law for the protection of song birds, his delight in the songs and domestic debates and difficulties

of the wrens that nested in the south front of his house at Boone, bespoke a nature keenly sensitive to the beauties and finest melodies of Nature."

Thus we have lost from our ranks a man whose long and unchecked life was made up of those finer instincts which peculiarly fitted him for a journalist, soldier, legislator, historian, and lover of birds.

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## RICHARD BOWDLER SHARPE.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

*With Portrait*<sup>1</sup> (Plate IX).

RICHARD BOWDLER SHARPE, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Chiswick, London, on Christmas Day, 1909, at the age of 62 years, after a brief illness from pneumonia.

Dr. Sharpe was born in London, November 22, 1847, the eldest son of Thomas Bowdler Sharpe, a well-known publisher in London, and grandson of the Rev. Lancelot Sharpe, rector of All Hallows Staining, London, and for many years headmaster of St. Saviour's Grammar School in Southark. At the age of six he was placed in the care of an aunt, who kept a preparatory school at Brighton, where he passed three years. At nine he was transferred to a grammar school in Peterborough, of which his cousin, the Rev. James Wallace, was master. Here he "gained a King's Scholarship, which not only guaranteed his education but carried with it a small amount of money." Later his cousin accepted the head mastership of a grammar school at Loughborough, and young Sharpe followed him to his new post where he continued to win the chief prizes of the school. At the age of sixteen, at the instance of his father, he went to London and took a clerkship in the establishment of W. H. Smith & Son, and two years later entered the employment of B. Quaritch, the eminent London publisher and bookseller. At the age of nineteen he was appointed librarian to the Zoölogical Society, which office he held for five years, when,

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<sup>1</sup> Reproduced, with permission, from 'British Birds,' Vol. III, February, 1910.